

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the present Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 15 are amended to overcome the objections to those claims.

35 USC §102(b)

Claim 1 is further amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §102(b). As defined in claim 1, the diffuser has a manifold "supporting said diffuser outlets at locations that are spaced horizontally outward and vertically downward from said diffuser inlet so as to diffuse the liquid by the force of only gravity." In the apparatus disclosed by Rust, the nozzles 15'-18' are not located vertically downward from the inlet at the manifold housing 39, but instead are located vertically upward from the inlet at the manifold housing 39. Claim 1 thus recites structural limitations of the manifold and the diffuser outlets that are not disclosed by Rust and is not anticipated by Rust under 35 USC §102(b).

Claims 2, 3 and 6 are cancelled to reduce the number of claims.

Claim 15 also is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §102(b). As defined in claim 15, the container is "vented to enable liquid contents of said container to exit said container through said container outlet by the force of only gravity." The container 11 of Rust is not vented to enable the liquid contents to exit by the force of only gravity. Instead, the container is sealed at the inlet valve 25 so that the liquid contents can exit the container under the force of the pressure inside the container. Claim 15 thus recites structural limitations that are not disclosed by Rust, and is not anticipated by Rust under 35 USC §102(b).

Claim 16 is cancelled to reduce the number of claims.

Claim 22 is amended to state that the circular array of diffuser outlets is "spaced radially outward and vertically downward from said container." As discussed above concerning claim 1, this distinguishes the invention from the disclosure of Rust under 35 USC §102(b).

Claim 23 is cancelled to reduce the number of claims.

35 USC §103

Claim 4 is amended to distinguish the subject of claim 1 further from the prior art by stating that the flexible hydraulic lines "suspend said diffuser outlets from said rigid hydraulic lines under the force of gravity." The patent to Rainey et al. does not disclose diffuser outlets that are suspended by flexible hydraulic lines under the force of gravity, and can not provide any suggestion or motivation to use that structural feature of the invention. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to modify the apparatus of Rust by suspending the nozzles 15'-18' from the hoses 19-22 under the force of gravity, because that would render the nozzles 15'-18' inoperative for their intended purpose of applying a rotational thrust to the container 11.

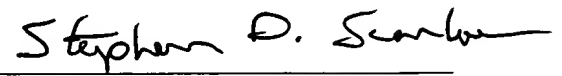
Claim 25 is cancelled to reduce the number of claims.

Concerning claims 17-19, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious in view of Nance, or any other prior art patents, to change the positions of the Rust nozzles 15'-18' in order to obtain separate circular diffusion areas. This is because displacement of the nozzles 15'-18' from their original positions would reduce the rotational thrust applied by the nozzles 15'-18', and would thereby hinder the effective operation of the apparatus.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 4, 15, 17-19, 22, 24 and 26 are allowable, and allowance is requested. Applicant further requests

consideration and allowance of withdrawn claims 70, 20 and 21, as amended above, in view of generic claims 1 and 15.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen D. Scanlon
Registration No. 32,755
(Attorneys for Applicant)
JONES DAY
901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216/586-7023